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Letter dated 28 March 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instruction from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention the instances in which the airspace of the Islamic Republic of Iran was violated or its territory hit by the belligerents in the ongoing war against Iraq:

1. On 21 March 2003, at 1930 hours, a missile hit the Abadan refinery (Station 10 Bahar-the metal workshop), causing material damage. The assessment made by the Iranian Armed Forces, on the basis of the date, the direction of the missile, its fragments and the absence of any Iraqi aircraft in the vicinity at the time of the incident, determined that the missile was from coalition forces.

2. On 21 March 2003, three rockets landed in Saleem, on the outskirts of the city of Abadan, causing material damage.

3. On 25 March 2003:

(a) Between 0845 and 0915 hours, three warplanes belonging to coalition forces violated Iranian airspace for about three miles in an area of west of the town of Shush. Upon being warned, they returned to Iraqi airspace.

(b) Between 1930 and 1934 hours, two warplanes belonging to coalition forces violated Iranian airspace for about five miles in an area across from Talaiya. Upon being warned, they returned to Iraqi airspace.

(c) On 21 March 2003, one Iraqi S-200 missile hit the area of Genavileh village, in Sardasht.

While putting on record the strongest protests of the Islamic Republic of Iran and reserving the right to seek compensation for the damage incurred, I wish to underline the imperative for the belligerents to adopt strict measures aimed at preventing the recurrence of similar violations in the future. My Government urges them, also, to fully respect the neutrality of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the ongoing conflict.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) M. Javad **Zarif**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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